

NEW JERSEY 1115 DEMONSTRATION**FACT SHEET**

Name of Section 1115 Demonstration: New Jersey Personal Preferences

Date Proposal Submitted: -----

Date Proposal Approved: October 9, 1998

Implemented: November 9, 1999

SUMMARY

New Jersey's Department of Human Services, Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services is operating a demonstration entitled "Personal Preferences: New Jersey's Cash and Counseling Demonstration Project." The demonstration is designed to ensure the personal voice and control of consumers in decision-making. Eligible beneficiaries will be randomized into two groups: a treatment group which receives a monthly cash allotment with which to purchase needed services under the personal care benefit, and a control group, which will receive services under the traditional method. Beneficiaries may hire their own workers, and determine which services they need, along with how much of a service to receive. Beneficiaries are the employers of record to any workers they hire. They may choose to manage their care independently, or with the assistance of a Fiscal Intermediary (FI) to handle paperwork functions.

ELIGIBILITY

Personal Preference will be available to individuals receiving Medicaid personal care services or who are eligible to receive them. Participants must be over 18 years of age and volunteer to participate after being informed of the rights and responsibilities of managing cash grants.

Individuals whose need for personal care services is less than 180 days per year, are enrolled in a 1915 (c) Home and Community-Based Services waiver, or are eligible for Medicaid through New Jersey's Medically Need Program, are not eligible to participate in Personal Preferences.

BENEFIT PACKAGE

Personal care services are the only services provided through this demonstration.

ENROLLMENT/DISENROLLMENT PROCESS

Participants expressing an interest in participating in the demonstration will be assessed to determine eligibility for receiving Medicaid personal care services. If eligible, they will be

contacted by the state to arrange a home visit, to explain the program in detail. If still interested, participants will be asked to sign a consent form to allow the participant to be randomized into either the treatment or control group. Mathematica Policy Research (MPR) conducts the randomization, and alerts the state of the results. Participants receive notification from the state as to what group they have been randomized into.

The demonstration is voluntary, and participants may disenroll from the treatment group at any time. Participants will be involuntarily disenrolled from the treatment group if there is misuse of the cash grant, if the participant's ability to manage their cash grant declines and there is no representative available, or if the participant fails to provide documentation of uses of the cash grant. Control group members continue to receive personal care services through the Medicaid State plan, negating the need to disenroll from the demonstration.

DELIVERY SYSTEM

Personal care services are provided to consumers enrolled in the treatment group by providers of their choosing. Treatment group consumers determine the services they need, and from whom to receive them. The consumers pay their workers from accounts set up for them through the State of New Jersey, which contains the amount of funds the Medicaid program would have spent on their personal care services.

Consumers randomized into the control group continue to receive personal care services through the traditional agency model.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Counselors are available to all treatment group enrollees to provide assistance with any questions or problems. The Fiscal Intermediary agency, along with the Counselors, monitor the monthly spending of treatment group consumers, and advise them if funds are growing insufficient. Ultimate decision-making responsibility, however, lies with the consumers. Satisfaction surveys are mailed to all treatment and control group participants.

COST-SHARING

There is no cost-sharing associated with this demonstration.

Contact – Melissa Harris – 410-786-3397 – E-Mail – mharris1@cms.hhs.gov

June 25, 2002